

REMARKS

Claim Status

The original application as filed included claims 1-18. A First Office Action was mailed on November 25, 2003, in which claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11-13 were rejected, and claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, and 18 were objected to but said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. A response to the First Office Action was filed on May 20, 2004 in which Applicants amended the specification and drawings, and made amendments to the claims to correct minor typographical errors. A Final Office Action was mailed on July 6, 2004, maintaining the rejections and objections noted above.


A Request for Continued Examination was submitted on October 1, 2004 in conjunction with an Amendment and Response in which independent claims 1, 6 and 14 were amended. An Office Action was mailed on December 13, 2004. Applicants submitted an Amendment and Response on March 11, 2005. A Final Office Action was issued on June 21, 2005, rejecting claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-16. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 17 and 18 were allowed. In this Response, Applicants cancel claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-16 without prejudice, and therefore believe that the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the issuance of the allowed claims in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: Aug 30 2005
Reg. No. 56,401
Phone: (617) 570-1057
Fax: (617) 523-1231



Joel E. Lehrer
Attorney For Applicants
Goodwin | Procter LLP
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

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